

**TORPOINT**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

---

---

OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
AND  
**Surveyor.**

---

**1910.**

---

**SYDNEY G. VINTER,**  
D.P.H., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**ROLAND H. BEAUMONT,**  
Assoc. M. Inst. C.E.  
Surveyor and Inspector.

DEVONPORT:  
W. G. SWISS & SONS, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, MARLBORO STREET.



TO THE  
**TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

---

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Seventh Annual Report of your district. The year has been one of considerable activity in Sanitary matters, new schools have been built by the County Council and a good beginning made of the construction of roads. Owing to your decision that the Surveyor's report shall be printed and bound with this, it is unnecessary for me to refer to many matters contained in that report.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The number of inhabited houses is 800, compared with 780 in 1909, and 549 at the census of 1901, giving an increase of 20 in the year, and 261 in the last ten years. For the most part house accommodation is good; no systematic inspection has been made during the year, but this will be carried out under the "card system" by degrees during the present and subsequent years as required by the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

A very active inspection was made in the years 1904-7, the first four years of your existence as an Urban District, with the result that 562 defects were reported upon and remedied, including: drains re-laid and repaired, 202; flushing-tanks erected for w.c's., 41; new w.c's. built, 21; orders obtained for putting houses in habitable repair, 4; houses found with defective ventilation under the floors and remedied, 12; defective courtyards remedied, 8. During the year 45 houses have been repaired and put into proper sanitary condition by the owners after notice from the Authority.

## ROADS.

There has been progress made in road construction, an essential step in the conversion of the district from a rural to an urban one. The widest road in the district, North Road, has been constructed at a cost of £795, under s. 150 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to the great improvement of the value of property on the road, and the convenience of the neighbourhood generally.

The Council have in hand the construction of Victoria Street and Albion Road, and have also requested the Surveyor to draw up a comprehensive scheme for the construction of those roads which are reparable by the inhabitants at large.

Several of the subsidiary roads have also been either made up or repaired. There is still a great amount of work to be done in the making of roads and back lanes which is referred to more fully in the Surveyor's Report.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Council have come to an agreement with the St. Germaus Rural Council, in whose district their catchment area is situated, whereby small sewage works will be constructed for the village of Crafthole and the effluent conducted safely past the reservoir, each district paying half the cost.

The filtration which takes place in Torpoint is by sand and is satisfactory, being at the rate of 1·37 gallons per sq. foot per hour and giving good results.

The upper part of the district is without an adequate supply owing to the fact that the houses situated there are nearly on a level with the filter beds; it takes half-an-hour to fill a can with water, while some of the flush tanks are never filled. Enquiries are being made as

to the possibility of remedying this, either by some alteration in the arrangement of the water mains, or by the erection of an elevated tank with a pumping station at the filter beds; if these means are found to be impracticable, the only remedy is to go to a further distance for the town's supply, and although this is a question involving a heavy expenditure, it is one that will imperatively call for action on the part of the Council.

### MILK SUPPLY AND OTHER FOODS.

The duty of taking samples is undertaken by the Police; no prosecutions have been conducted during the year. The dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops are all satisfactory and well kept, except that in the case of one farm-house the provision of a suitable place for washing cans and also of a wash-house, the necessity for which was mentioned in a former report, has not been made. There are four slaughter-houses in the district, these are inspected from time to time, but not necessarily at times of slaughtering. The Sanitary Inspector acts as Inspector of Meat, and has attended a course of lectures for that purpose, no carcasses have been found tuberculous.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Much attention has been given to these by the Surveyor during the year. A new drain has been laid in Antony Road at a cost of £199, and another in the lane at the back of the Square at a cost of £13. The unsatisfactory condition of the sewer in Union Road is also to be remedied by relaying.

### RAINFALL.

I am indebted to the Rev. A. Clover, Vicar of Antony, for the following particulars: The fall for 1910 was 45·95 inches. There were 250 days with some rain, 225 wet days (·01 inch and over), 133



very wet days (1 inch and over), 9 days with an inch in twenty-four hours. The 1·19 on July 28th was the biggest fall against 1·55 on July 27th, the wettest day of 1909. The maximum temperature was 76, May 24th; minimum 27, January 26th; average of day maxima, 56°·58; average of night minima, 45°·33; giving 50°·99 as mean for the year.

The rainfall for 1910 was in excess in England and Wales, with a percentage of 111. Seathwaite, in North of England, exceeded its average of 129·48 with 134·24 inches; Sheepstor, in the neighbourhood of this district had 77·11 inches; London (Botanical Gardens) had 25·36. In point of sunshine for the year in England, Torquay, 1769·9 hours; Falmouth 1719·5 hours; Brighton, 1700·9; Plymouth, 1653·1; Yarmouth, 1647·5 is the order of the first five English returns. Guernsey, 1792·0 hours.

#### PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The National Schools have been closed during the year and their place taken by new schools built by the County Council; unfortunately these schools were not built sufficiently large, and are already overfull. In deciding how to meet this still remaining deficiency of school places, it should be borne in mind that the standard of elementary education in the three Tamar-side towns of Millbrook, Saltash, and Torpoint has to be the same as that existing in the Three Towns, of which for competitive purposes, they are a part, and it is much to be desired that this opportunity will be taken of furthering and extending the excellent work done in the higher standards of both the schools in Torpoint.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population is estimated at 4,800, the population at the census of 1901 was 3,404; the census this year will afford a welcome opportunity of correcting the estimate. The area of the district is 1,324 acres.

The number of births for the year is 109, giving a birth rate of 22·7, which shows the lamentable falling off reported upon in the rest of the country.

In 1904, with a smaller population, the number of births was 163, giving a birth rate of 39·7.

The Total deaths in the district was 60, giving the low death rate of 12·4, the same as in 1909; ten of the deaths occurred in the Workhouse—six of them being those of non-residents. The nett deaths belonging to the district was 54, giving a rate of 11·2 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 10·8 in 1909.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths of children under one year of age was 8; two were from over lying, a cause which it is hoped will disappear owing to the care the midwives take to teach the mothers the danger of having their infants in bed with themselves instead of in a cradle. Of the 8 deaths, seven were those of legitimate infants and one of an illegitimate. There is no untrained midwife working in the district. The two nurses supplied by the Torpoint and Merifield Nursing Association are doing excellent work; both of them hold Central Midwives' Board certificates, though one of them is specially appointed for that branch of work.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases notified during the year was 22, of which 10 were those of children between the ages of 5 and 15. The incidence of the 22 cases was as follows: Diphtheria, 6; Erysipelas, 5; Scarlet Fever, 2; Enteric Fever, 9. Seven of the cases of Enteric occurred in one house, and were the subject of a special report to the Local Government Board, at their request; the house has since been practically rebuilt.

All the cases of infectious disease recovered.

The Council, through their Medical Officer of Health, supply diphtheria antitoxin, they also submit specimens to the Clinical Research Association. Eleven were sent during the year: 5 for typhoid, of which 3 gave positive and 2 negative results; 6 for diphtheria, of which 1 was positive and 5 negative.

Two cases of Pauper Phthisis were notified with one death. The number of primary vaccinations performed by the Public Vaccinator was eighty-five.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are one factory and 20 registered workshops in the district, the condition of all of which is satisfactory. Four addresses of out-workers engaged in making wearing apparel were received from other districts and six inspections made.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SYDNEY G. VINTER,

Medical Officer of Health.



TORPOINT,

January 23rd, 1911.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE TORPOINT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my second Annual Reports of the work carried out by your various Committees during the year ending December, 1910.

HIGHWAYS AND WORKS COMMITTEE.

In the early part of the year notices were served upon the frontagers of North Road under s. 150, Public Health Act, 1875, the notices were not complied with and the Council applied for a loan to carry out such work. A Local Government Board Inspector held an enquiry into the proposals and the loan was sanctioned. The work of construction was carried out by contract, the total cost, including incidental expenses amounting to £795 2s. 8d., or a little over 9/4 per linl. foot of frontage. With respect to private street works, your Committee

have also given instructions for the making-up of Victoria Street and the Surveyor to the Well Park Estate has had plans passed for making-up Albion Road to the satisfaction of the Council—the latter road is in urgent need of making-up as it forms the only approach to the new Council Schools and during wet weather is very dirty. From my present information I believe the work will be commenced at a very early date. I hope during the year 1911 to present to you drawings and specifications for the making-up of some of the back lanes which are, for the most part, in a very bad state of repair. During the year the Committee took in hand the making of the upper part of Barossa Road, abutting upon Greenbank Terrace, and their efforts have resulted in a new piece of road which will shortly be rolled and faced, and be a great improvement upon the old conditions which were very dangerous.

I have during the year presented for the consideration of your Committee the improvement of various of the public roads, others will follow in due course, and I am quite sure that if the work as proposed be carried out the town would be much more attractive and convenient to residents and visitors, and would in the long run thoroughly justify the expenditure upon them.

Owing to the extremely wet weather during the closing months of the year the surfaces of our roads have been extremely dirty, and I would again draw the attention of the Committee to the need for the purchase of a mud-cart. At the present time it is not advisable to sweep the mud to the side channels as complaints immediately arise from persons stepping off the paths, and an ordinary cart does not hold the mud when in a liquid state.

During the year your Committee purchased a tar-spraying machine and part of Antony Road, Chapel Row, and Elliott Square were treated with crude tar. The time of the year was rather late for the work and

the tar had hardly had time to set before the rainy season commenced, causing much mud. However, I am convinced that after our experiments of last year that the work will be of great benefit to the town if taken in hand in the early summer it is quite patent to me that the life of a road is very much lengthened and the surface crust much strengthened when treated with tar, this has been very strongly shewn in the main road, where, owing to the water-proofing effected by the tarring, the surface has remained in good order and shape, whilst the pieces of road on either side of it have been very badly affected by the continual soaking of rain into the foundations--the latter in most cases only consisting of the natural subsoil. I would recommend your Committee to carry out the work more extensively during this year, and in particular upon the portions of the road newly repaired or to be repaired. Your Committee will be interested to know that Mr. Jenkin, the County Surveyor, expressed himself as being very well pleased with the condition of our portion of the main roads, in spite of the very adverse weather conditions.

The County Council had under consideration during the year the renewing of the Fore Street footpaths, and a deputation visited the site to view the conditions, with a result that a contribution of £100 was offered towards an estimated expenditure of £311, this offer your Committee considered inadequate in the circumstances, and requested the County Council to reconsider their decision, with the result that a further deputation visited the district a few days ago under the chairmanship of Mr. Danbez, and I hope that as a result of the visit that a more acceptable offer will be made towards carrying out this much needed improvement.

This year your Committee has carried out the trimming of all the hedges abutting upon the District roads, and I am pleased to say that the departure from the custom of paying the occupiers of the land has resulted in the work being more uniformly carried out, whilst the cost is practically the same as by the contract system.

During the year a much needed improvement was effected at the bottom of Fore Street by the fixing of two gullies and the paving of the crossings by Mr. Downing's stables.

The repairs carried out to the carriage-ways of the District roads at the commencement of the year have much improved the appearance of such roads, and if the policy of placing in good order a few of these carriage-ways per annum be adhered to, in a few years the streets of the town will present a very respectable appearance, and be a source of credit and pleasure to the ratepayers using them.

Building operations during the year have not been very brisk, though the depression in this trade is marked throughout the Country. Certificates for occupation of eight new houses were granted during the year, 3 in Sydney Terrace, 4 in Shanbally Terrace and 1 in Carew Terrace, and plans of ten new houses were passed together with five plans for sundries and for making up one street—Albion Road; the figures for 1909 were: 10 Certificates granted, plans of 20 houses.

#### SANITARY AND GENERAL PURPOSES.

Probably the most noteworthy subject for remark is the opening of new Council schools which took place in November. These buildings are up-to-date, having good sanitary arrangements and plenty of light and air, and are a vast improvement upon the very insanitary set of buildings previously occupied. These improvements should tend towards much better health of both scholars and staff attending there.

During the year the Committee have constructed a new sewer in Antony Road, from the Fire Station to Albion Road, partly necessitated by the erection of the new schools, and towards the cost of which the County Council granted £50; the old sewer was in a



very defective state and was left intact, thus providing a surface water drain for the higher portions of the town. The sewer between Harvey Street and Rowe Street, at the rear of Chapel Row, was found to be very defective and was reconstructed. I would again draw the attention of the Committee to the state of the sewer in Union Road which is very badly in need of relaying, also from observation, the sewer at the rear of Wellington Street and Waterloo Place is in a very defective state.

During the year considerable annoyance was caused to the community by the very lax manner in which the scavenging of the town was carried out by the Contractor. After giving every chance for improvement, your Committee was reluctantly compelled to determine the Contract, and, at the time of determining, considered the question of providing a suitable sanitary cart for the removals. This has now been done and I think in future, many of the complaints as to refuse blowing about the public thoroughfares, will be obviated. A systematic method of dealing with various parts of the town has been adopted and has been in working order for several months, and, with the co-operation of the present Contractor, has been thoroughly satisfactory. Your Committee considered the question of carrying out this class of work by direct labour, a course which I am sure would give every satisfaction, but the contract system obtains for a further period of twelve months.

The general sanitary condition of the town is satisfactory and is proved by the absence of any serious epidemics of infectious disease. Probably, the condition of some of the dwelling-houses in the older portions of the town is not all that might be desired, but, with the additional powers given under the 1910 Act, these premises may in the future be considerably improved.

During the year 45 reports were made to your Committee of premises having sanitary defects; of these 25 have already been



attended to and the cause of complaint removed, whilst others are pending, and no doubt will receive attention in due course. During the year the Council exercised their powers to provide drains to three premises where owners had neglected to comply with the notices served and in each case satisfaction was given to the owner, and the works carried out have been paid for.

Owing to the absence of infectious disease the cost of providing disinfectants was very light; during the year premises was fumigated following cases of consumption, diphtheria, typhoid, and scarlet fever, and in several cases in order to rid premises of vermin.

With regard to the work accomplished by the General Purposes Committee probably the most important proposition was that of the provision of a public recreation ground, a site has been offered by Sir Reginald Pole-Carew to the north of the new schools, which would, in my opinion, answer the purpose admirably if the boundary fences are put in good order and repair. The proposed site is well away from the main thoroughfare and is an extremely pleasant spot, and I would recommend the Council to accept the offer with as little delay as possible.

Your Committee has had under consideration the provision of a public bathing-place, and reports have been submitted for two alternative sites, both of which were considered as being unsatisfactory from the point of view of expense.

The naming and numbering of the streets has been under consideration, and I have instructions to proceed with the numbering of various streets in the lower portion of the town, this work will be completed in time for the numbers to be made use of at the Census to be taken at the end of March, and regarding the naming of streets I have a report prepared at the present time for the consideration of the Committee.

Numerous complaints were received during the year as to breaches of bye-laws relating to hackney carriages, and after giving warning your Committee took proceedings in several cases, with the result that more observance of the terms of the bye-laws has resulted, which has lead to more equitable terms amongst the proprietors, and to the greater safety of the public using these vehicles.

### WATER.

The year under review has been exceptionally wet, and the quantity of water has been well maintained at the storage reservoir at Craithole; the Committee sanctioned the grouting in cement of the face of the embankment, with a result that we are now able to impound water to a height of 19 ft. 6 in. instead of 18 ft. 6 in., as heretofore, this height of water and the pressure therefrom has not had any effect upon the embankment, for during the heaviest weather I kept a very close watch and in my opinion, it is quite safe to collect the extra foot which will amount to a large quantity and will be a saving in pumping.

I am pleased to say that after the thorough overhauling of our machinery last year the bill for repairs has been very small and everything is in good order for the coming year. The Committee have been negotiating with the St. Germans R.D. Council, regarding the prevention of pollution of the reservoir, by treating the sewage from Craithole village and carrying the effluent beyond the pumping station. This scheme I have in hand and hope shortly to present the whole for your consideration.

I have pleasure in stating that the supply to the town has been continuous throughout the year, and with proper care I do not see why the quantity stored at Craithole, together with the pump,

should not be adequate for the needs of the community unless Torpoint increases in size upon the higher levels, or the Government require you to supply a much larger quantity than at present.

During the year only one complaint as to quality was received, the complaint being that the water had solids in suspension. This was accounted for by the fact that, at the time, several of the filter beds had been disturbed, causing the lighter portions of the sand to be carried into the mains.

The year has seen the supply extended by means of 3-in. mains in Albion, Sydney, and Barossa Roads at the rear of Carew Terrace.

The various fittings are regularly examined and are in good working order.

The leakage from mains is about normal; some time ago it was noticed that there was a very rapid increase in the night consumption, and after a few night inspections was remedied; the average loss is approximately 1,000 gallons per hour, during the silent hours, viz.: from 12 to 5 a.m. This quantity your Committee hopes to diminish, but by inspections made is not confined to any one section but by a series of leaks over the whole length of mains. The investment of your Committee in a Deacon's meter has been the means of saving much wastage, and has amply repaid the amount spent upon it.

During the year an additional Berkfelt filter was provided at the Cambridge Fields, Trevel, at the request of Admiralty. The consumption of filter caudles, eight in number, has been very reasonable, considering the quantity of water used and the amount of cleaning of such candles.

During the year 212 washers have been supplied to consumers' taps. Night testing revealed about a dozen leaking connections belonging

to the Council on consumers' supplies, and one burst main. Notices were served upon 27 owners of property to repair or replace defective apparatus, which is a decrease in numbers from last year. Eleven new connections were made to the mains for supplies for domestic uses and building supplies, the latter eventually becoming house supplies, the new schools were also supplied during the year. The average consumption of water per day amounts to 55·700 gallons giving an average of 12·38 gallons per head.

During the year many questions as to the meter supplies have arisen, and I am pleased to say that in all cases the questions have been amicably settled and the regulations appear to work very well.

#### FIRE AND LIGHTING.

Your Committee has during the year continued their policy of gradually replacing the old tin lanterns by those of stout copper made in your new workshop, this work has been very beneficial and the saving in the fittings has been most marked, and the saving thus effected would give a very good return for the money invested.

Your Committee during the year took advantage of the agreement to ask the Gas Company to provide meters for the meter lamps and charge rentals for the same. This step has saved money in the purchase of meters, but the meter system in street lamps is very unsatisfactory, the meters themselves are continually getting out of order owing to the varying climatic conditions, and I venture to say that in very few quarters do we get a true account of the quantity of gas consumed. If I might, I would suggest that instead of a metered supply as at present you might with advantage have a stated cost per lamp per annum based upon the recorded consumption of the last three years, this would lead to less uncertainty, and also would at the same time be saving to both parties to the agreement.



The Committee on the whole have had very little cause for complaint as to the quantity of gas, though the quality might very well be considerably improved at a comparatively small cost.

Your Committee regrets the continued damage caused to the public lamps, in many cases apparently for sheer mischief and hopes the causes for complaint will be much lessened after the result of your recent action, when several persons were caught tampering with lamps, if not I would suggest that stronger measures be taken.

During the year the lanterns at the following places were replaced by new copper ones, viz.: York Road (bottom end), York Road (opp. Tremayne Terrace), Moor View (meter-lamp), Elm Cottage corner, Pembroke Terrace, Liscawn Terrace, Arthur Terrace, Macey Street (Tyler's corner), and Reservoir. New lanterns and columns were fixed in Sydney Road and Sconner Road at the end of Shanbally Terrace. A new lantern and column was fixed as above at Tyler's corner, the old one having been knocked down and broken.

Below I give you the detailed cost of the fittings for lighting purposes from which you will see that my expectations of last year, as to the reduction in numbers, have been realised. The total amount paid to the Gas Company during the year, including meter rentals, was £127, or £1 7s. 11d. per lamp, the figures for the previous year being £126 16s. 3d., or £1 19s. 0d. per lamp. 457 mantles were used at a cost of £5 14s. 4d., or 1/8½d. per lamp, last years figures, 637 cost £9 4s. 1d., or 2/10d. per lamp; 352 globes were used this year at a cost of £4 8s. 0d., or 1/3½d. per lamp, against 396 last year; 63 forks were used during 1910 at a cost of 2/-, or a halfpenny per lamp—half the cost of in the previous year; one anti-vibrator burner was fixed at a cost of 6/1d., Colza Oil (one gallon cost 3/3), new lantern cocks 12/-, one new torch £1 10s. 6d., linseed oil and whitening for putty 1/6, making a total cost per lamp, including the wages of the lamplighter, £2 17s. 4d., as against £3 0s. 3d. per lamp last year.



The number of mantles per lamp works out at nearly seven, as against 9·8 last year, which is due to the fact that the old lanterns were wind and rain swept, whilst in a new lantern the fittings last much longer.

In conclusion I beg to thank the members of the Committees for their assistance in carrying out my duties, and I also acknowledge the work and loyalty of my staff in the various departments.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROLAND H. BEAUMONT,

Assoc. M. Inst. C.E. Grad. Inst. M. & C.E.

